

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An apparatus for defining a loop handle in a tubular covering, such as an expanded mesh plastic covering, for a food. The apparatus of the present invention includes a frame for supporting the various assemblies that comprise the apparatus and for engaging a support
5 surface such as a floor. The apparatus of the present invention further includes a conveyor assembly, which conveys the food product from a production line and into the slide area or chute. Positioned proximate the distal end of the chute is a voider assembly defined by a stationary set of voider gates and a moveable set of voider gates. Further, the apparatus of the present invention includes a handle formation assembly for engaging the compressed cord of
10 tubular covering and forming the compressed cord into a loop handle and a clipper device for engaging the handle formation assembly, and the engaged compressed cord of tubular covering and securing two clips to the cord, one to secure the bottom of the tubular covering for the previously processed food product, and one to secure the loop handle and for severing the compressed cord of tubular covering at a point disposed between the two securing clips.